

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, UR

SUBJ: BICENTENNIAL FILM FESTIVAL

REF: USIA 28786

1. EMBOFFS BENSON, CALLAWAY AND FORNER MET WITH GOSKINO OFFICIALS SLAVNOV, CHKALIKOV AND STORCHAK, 30 SEPT TO INFORM THEM ABOUT UNSUITABILITY DECEMBER DATES.

2. DRAWING ON REFTEL, EMBOFFS CAREFULLY SUMMARIZED PAST DEVELOPMENTS AND COMMENTED ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF NEGOTIATIONS RESULTING IN ACCEPTANCE OF FILM FESTIVAL "IN PRINCIPLE" AND CLARIFICATION OF UNDERSTANDING THAT "SENDING SIDE PAYS".

3. WHEN EMBOFF SAID THAT DECEMBER DATES DID NOT ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR PROPER PLANNING OF NECESSARILY COMPLEX PROGRAM, AND THAT THEREFORE BICENTENNIAL RETROSPECTIVE FESTIVAL COULD NOT BE HELD, TRANSLATOR ASKED THAT STATEMENT BE REPEATED, BUT OTHER THAN THAT, GOSKINO OFFICIALS HAD NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

4. ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING CINEMATOGRAPHIC DELEGATION TO USA UNDER THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT, ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN THAT THIS TYPE OF EXCHANGE WOULD BE CONSIDERED, AS ARE OTHER CULTURAL GROUPS.

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5. GOSKINO EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING PUTTING POSSIBLE SOVIET FILM FESTIVAL IN JEOPARDY IF BICENTENNIAL

FILM FESTIVAL NOT TO BE HELD. EMBOFF ASSURED SOVIETS THAT THIS NOT THE CASE AND THAT SAME FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE AS OUTLINED IN EARLIER MEETINGS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND USIA.

6. EMBOFF MADE IT CLEAR THAT EMBASSY STILL INTERESTED IN SPONSORING AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL, PERHAPS ON A SPECIFIC THEME, AND WOULD CONSIDER FEASIBILITY NEXT YEAR.

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